



COMMUNITY NEWS

District 1

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Water Safety and Drowning Prevention

June 21st marks the beginning of summer. However, this has not prevented the temperature from topping 100 degrees already. So it's time for everyone to hit their backyard pools and the beautiful lakes Arizona has to offer. Families and friends will be swimming, boating, visiting water parks and heading off to their favorite vacation getaway. This is an appropriate time to discuss water safety and drowning prevention before the summer gets into full swing.

Too many times family members tell officers "I was only away for a few seconds." Unfortunately, just a few seconds is all it takes for a child to drown. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of four in Arizona. Many children drown in their backyard pools. Others drown or have "near drowning" incidents in spas, bathtubs, canals, ponds, lakes, toilets and even buckets of water. A child can drown in as little as two inches of water.

"Near drowning" tragedies can cause children to have permanent brain damage. Small children do not have the upper body strength to lift themselves out of a dangerous water situation. With this in mind I would like to share a few water safety strategies you can utilize at home and on vacation.

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From The Desk Of Commander Jeff Walther

Summer brings warmer weather, longer days and unfortunately an increase in burglaries. The Scottsdale Police Department is asking for renewed diligence from residents to reduce these occurrences in our city.

- Keep vehicles locked, with the windows up, at all times when they are not occupied. Remove all valuables including purses, cell phones, MP3 players, GPS systems, and laptop computers when not in the vehicle. Many vehicles also contain an automatic garage door opener, which allows easy access to the garage/home so remove them as well.
- Avoid Home Improvement Scams which can often be Distraction or Deception Burglaries. Be aware of anyone looking to perform unscheduled home repair, or asking to gain entry to your home. Ask for identification and contact their company for authorization to ensure they are who they claim to be. Also, do not agree to pay for home improvement services until the work has been completed.
- Keep all doors closed and locked, this includes garages, sheds, and patio doors. Burglaries from open garages, sheds, and residences are more prevalent in the summer months, and often occur when the homeowner is in their backyard.
- Summer vacation plans? Stop delivery on mail and newspapers or have a trusted neighbor or family member pick them up. Set inside lights on a timer to turn on during the overnight hours. Set your burglar alarm and have a neighbor watch your residence while you're on vacation.

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Pool safety

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Always have a designated “child watcher.”
- Never allow children to be alone near a pool or any water source.
- Use an approved fence/barrier to separate the pool from your house.
- Make sure pool gates are equipped with self locking/self-latching features.
- Consider alarms and automatic interior door locks.
- Keep tables, chairs, boxes, ladders and toys away from pool fences.
- Place life-saving devices near your pool such as flotation devices, first aid kits, a “reaching pole” and a cordless/cell telephone.
- Make sure your children know how to swim.
- Make sure you and anyone responsible for watching your child are CPR trained (including grandparents, older siblings, care givers and baby sitters).

Water Safety while on Vacation

- Enforce the same safety rules you set at home.
- Never allow your children to swim unsupervised in a hotel/motel pool. Do not assume someone else is watching your child.
- Inspect the pool before you swim. Is there a lifeguard on duty? Where is the rescue equipment? Do you know how to use it? Does it work? Where is the telephone? Does it dial out of the hotel/motel?

The good news is water related incidents can be prevented. It is your responsibility to educate your children about water safety. Summer is the time for vacations, but we can never take a vacation from water safety.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Jen Wattier at 480-312-0275, email: jwattier@scottsdaleaz.gov, or District 1 Police Aide Sherry Cross at 480-312-5851, email: scross@scottsdaleaz.gov.

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- Make sure to leave contact information with them on how to reach you by telephone while you’re away. Inform them to contact the Scottsdale Police Department immediately if they encounter suspicious activities.
- If you do not have a neighbor to look after your home while you’re away, contact the Scottsdale Police Department at (480) 312-5000 and ask to be placed on the Vacation Watch list. Officers will then drive by your home while on patrol to ensure that it has not been broken into or damaged. This will also provide the police department with contact information should something happen while you’re away.

Following these tips should significantly decrease your chances of becoming a burglary statistic this summer.

Commander Jeff Walther

480-312-2571

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Mayor Proclaims May as Water Safety and Awareness Month

In the month of May, Scottsdale Fire Department representatives will be visiting Scottsdale Unified Public School Kindergarten and First Grade Classes to teach water safety. The program centers on the book, “Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim.” Students participating in this year’s program will receive a complimentary copy of the book to share with their families. This is the third year, the water safety program has been taught in Scottsdale.

The effort draws attention to the ongoing need to remind our residents that drowning can be prevented. If you are interested in water safety classes contact the city’s Aquatic program at (480)-312-POOL. For information on CPR classes call the Scottsdale Fire Department at (480)-312-3473.

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817